

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 18, 1902.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE.

The Latter-day Saints are hereby reminded of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was born at Sharon, Windsor county, Vermont, December 23rd, 1805. It is desirable that this important event be kept in mind and duly commemorated. We therefore suggest that Sunday, December 21, 1902, the nearest Sabbath to the day we celebrate, be set apart for memorial services in all the wards and stakes of Zion. The Presidencies of Stakes, the Bishoprics of wards, and the Sunday School authorities are requested to take steps accordingly, that the day may be observed with appropriate ceremonies.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

## NOTICE TO BISHOPS.

In compliance with the suggestion of the First Presidency in relation to memorial services on the birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Bishops of the respective wards in the Salt Lake Stake of Zion are hereby requested to arrange for services, appropriate to the occasion, both in the Sabbath schools and in the evening meetings. All missionary appointments and ward conferences for Sunday evening, Dec. 21, are cancelled, and it is hoped that there will be a general attendance at the Tabernacle in the afternoon, as well as at the Sunday schools and ward meetings, so that the Saints may rejoice together over the advent into the world of the great Prophet of the last dispensation.

ANGUS M. CANNON,  
JOSEPH E. TAYLOR,  
CHAS. W. PENROSE,  
Presidency of Stake.

## FALSE SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

The Salt Lake dispatch friend is again at work, and special to different eastern newspapers are being sent over the wires, containing gross exaggerations of current events and obsolete falsehoods concerning "Mormon" Church affairs. We are not speaking of Associated Press dispatches. We refer to "exclusive" telegrams by "direct wire," emanating from "anti-Mormon" sources in this city, evidently in association with certain sectarian ministers who are trying to brew another anti-Mormon storm in religious circles throughout the country.

One of the old stories thus revived is the fiction about the political action of the "Mormon" Church, by which "the balance of political power" is held in a number of States in the Union. We wonder that the editors of influential public journals do not recognize these old dummies, dressed up for scare-mongers, and toss them aside as musty rubbish, too stale for live dailies to breast with the times. They belong to the buried past, are entirely out of date, and are so estimated by well-informed people.

The antiquated charge is made to do new duty now in reference to the late general election. It is alleged that the Republican majorities in several places mentioned were the work of the "Mormon" Church, and to give color to the charge, the names of prominent Church officials are given as taking an active part in the canvass, some of whom did not figure in the matter at all. The truth is, that there are prominent "Mormons" in both the great national parties, and they use their liberty as citizens to advocate the cause which they deem right, the same as other partisans do, and that is all.

But it is always alleged that they act under orders from the Church, and that so the Church carries the elections in the States where its members are located, and this is held up as a terrible state of affairs. But what is meant by "the Church" in this assertion? The Church is not a unit in politics. In it there are ardent Democrats as well as active Republicans, and no one acquainted with the situation doubts the sincerity or the zeal of other partisans.

If by the Church is meant its Presidency, we most emphatically protest against the statement. If any living member ever kept entirely out of the political strife during the campaign of 1902, they were the gentlemen composing the First Presidency of the "Mormon" Church. No one can be found who will say he received instructions from them, or that they told him how to vote or what to do as a political agitator or adviser. They were absolutely silent on these matters, and there is not a word of truth in the allegations to the contrary, from whomsoever they come. One would suppose from the reports sent out, that no other places in the Union, or in the Western States, showed an increase in the Republican vote

except those districts where "Mormons" predominate. A little fair inquiry would demonstrate the fact that not only whole States where there are no "Mormons," but non-"Mormon" counties in the States mentioned as under "Mormon" control, showed the same or greater increase in the votes for the candidates of that party, and thus the "argument" about Church influence falls flat in the mud from which it springs.

But after all what is there in the alarm sought to be raised? Simply that the "Mormon" Church has immense influence in several States of the Union. Well, what of it? Is that anything against the Church? Are not its members American citizens? Are they not entitled to all the political rights and privileges of their status? If they form a majority in any place where they reside, may they not enjoy the civil rights of majorities? And if they constitute such a power in politics, are they not likely to be sought after by wise politicians rather than regarded with distrust?

The folly of the clerical agitators is manifest even in their untruths, and distortions, and vain attempts to bring trouble upon a Church and a people they cannot convert or coerce. The great newspapers of the country should beware of Salt Lake special dispatches, and scan them closely before giving them place as news, when they are nothing more than stupid old fabrications designed in sectarian malice and sent out to the world to deceive.

## VENEZUELAN CONDITIONS.

There is in the Era for December a brief article on Conditions in Venezuela. It is of timely interest, and as it is by Col. Barcenas, consul in Philadelphia for that republic, it may be considered authentic. The consul says in part:

"It has been the curse of Venezuela that, when honest, patriotic men, skilled in statecraft, labor most earnestly in expending their energies for the common good, the distracted are quickened to cry 'traid.' It is the only battle cry that is necessary to lead the masses to riot. From a Venezuelan riot a rebellion will spring up in a night, like a volcano. The Indians, half-breeds and mulattoes, who comprise 90 per cent of the population are easily stirred into a passion by fomenters of discord, whose usual policy is to make them believe the laws subject them to grave indignities."

This accounts for the facility with which "revolutions" are called into existence. Almost any political adventurer there may set out to avenge "wrong," and in a short time he finds himself at the head of an "army." The Venezuelans, the Consul says, yearn to fight anything or anybody. If this is the case, they may have their craving for scraps satisfied at the present time, unless cooler counsels prevail.

Concerning General Hernandez, who, the dispatches say, has been released from prison and received with ovations by the people, Consul Barcenas says that he was once one of President Castro's secretaries. But he wanted to become the chief, and soon plotted a rebellion. Castro, however, was too much for him, and he was captured and sent to prison. Whether his release at this time will have any particular influence upon the affairs of the country, remains to be seen.

Much has been said against President Castro, but his side has not been heard, except, perhaps, by his immediate friends. He seems to be too busy to reply to the various attacks that appear from time to time in the press. Consul Barcenas says he is schooled in one of the country's military academies and has made strategy his special study. In statesmanship and commercialism, too, Castro has shown much skill. Confidence, keen foresight and an iron self-control are said to be among his attributes.

The Consul admits that the progress of the country has been stunted by the constant revolutions, but he says the possibilities for development under peaceful conditions are great. Prolonged peace would mean wealth to investors and unparalleled prosperity to her people. As it is, the patience of the country's best people is fast wearing out, and the time must come when demagogues and tricksters no longer can incite to riot and rebellion.

This should receive due attention now. If Venezuela can be assured of a peaceful existence, there is no reason why she should not in time discharge all obligations. At present the country is poor, but it does not need to remain poor. There should be some way out of the present trouble, without inviting the total ruin of the country.

## ALMOST PERSUADED.

The Kansas City World tells a little story, well worth repeating. In a certain locality there is a mission hall. Services there are conducted by leading business men. Every evening there is a substantial business man on the platform, talking to congregations made up of the floss and jet-sam of life's stormy waves.

One evening—and this is the story—a young man drifted into the hall. His life had been wasted on drink. He was a college graduate, but that fact was not apparent in his looks. The preacher that evening was the general agent of an insurance company. He was a splendid speaker. The seedy derelict heard him and was touched. That night there was rejoicing among the mission workers over one who "was dead but is alive again." The general agent asked the "saved" derelict to call at his office. He did so. He was very hungry, very tired and very worried. For he was a stranger in a strange land; without friends, without work and without money. The general agent was touched. He gave the "saved" sinner a quarter and told him to call again. The next day he, after a determined but fruitless effort to find work, called again. He was invited to attend prayer meeting at a wealthy West End church that night. He did so. He walked to and from the church, many miles, discouraged and hungry. But none offered to feed him. This experience was repeated several times. He was given much spiritual food, but, alas, he was given none of a temporal character. His Christian experience drove him back to drink.

That is the story. If any special lesson is conveyed in it, it is that the spiritual needs of God's erring children are best attended to after their temporal wants have been relieved. The return of the prodigal in the parable, caused fasting and merriment. It is useless to preach peace to the destitute, unless the sermon is accompanied by "the fattened calf." "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

True benevolence is first of all practical. Salvation must embrace temporal as well as spiritual conditions. This fact Christ came to teach man, and the lesson is very appropriate at this season. If we understand His doctrine of human brotherhood, we are in a position to be His messengers. If not, preaching is very much in vain.

## THE GROWING DRUG HABIT.

Dr. T. D. Crothers, in the New York Sun, calls attention to the fact that the use of drugs is growing alarmingly in this country. The war against intemperance has not resulted in abstinence from poisons as injurious to the human system as alcohol. A committee of pharmacists appointed to inquire into this subject has found that the increased demand for cocaine in the last five years has been over 400 per cent, while the sale of morphine and opium during this time have increased 500 per cent. The normal increase of the use of these drugs for legitimate purposes during this period would be less than 20 per cent, it is claimed, hence this enormous difference indicates a new and unknown use of those drugs.

Reports from physicians in various parts of the country corroborate this conclusion of the committee. They show that the drugs mentioned are used with increasing frequency. Hospitals and sanitariums are called on to treat these cases, and often they comprise a considerable percentage of all the cases treated. Physicians in private practice discover the secret drug habits among their patients, and specific drugs for certain states are more numerous and widely advertised in the journals and magazines of the day.

The doctor thinks that the strains, drains, and exhaustions which follow the fight for existence, as life now is, are responsible for these vices. Relief, he says, is sought in narcotics. Sleeplessness results from overwork, and the victim will perhaps turn to opium, and become addicted to that drug. "Nervous exhaustion," he continues, "from bad living, overwork, underwork, excitement, bad nutrition, want of training, occupation, bad parentage, faulty growth in early life, and so on, are the main causes for drug taking and narcotism in early and middle life. Many men and women are born with faulty and feeble resisting pain centers. They cannot endure suffering, disappointments, and losses; hence they turn to drugs and spirits for relief. The real fault is in the family, in the parents, in the training and surroundings. Many a young man and woman goes out from the home with a heavy entailment of disability and inability to meet the losses and crosses common to every day life. They become spirit and drug takers, with and without much temptation, and are early wrecked."

This is no doubt correct, although it would be difficult to account in the same way, for the opium habit among the Chinese, who live a primitive existence, as different as possible from that of American life with its hurry and excitement. It is quite clear that forces are always at work endeavoring to degrade the human family morally and physically, and cause its destruction, and that development toward perfection can be secured only through a constant struggle against those evil forces. That is the lesson of national, as of individual experience. That is the lesson of the growing use of all kinds of narcotics, notwithstanding the knowledge that it brings ruin. Our people are very much concerned about physical culture, to insure healthy physique, but unless more stress is laid, both in homes and in schools, upon moral training, vice will more than undo that which is sought to be attained through the training of the muscles.

Parties may come and parties may go, but the trusts go on forever. Little Venice is learning, all too late, that she paid too much for her (railroad) whistle. An effort is to be made to enforce the anti-trust law. If at first it doesn't succeed, try, try again.

A great and continued fall of snow will do more to solve the water problem than anything else. General Ford has been proclaimed President of Hayti by the army. At best he is but a President pro tem. Signs of Santa Claus' coming are to be seen everywhere. But how long the time seems to the little ones! Washington was the father of his country, but Minister Bowen is fast becoming the father of all the countries represented in Venezuela.

Professor Nathaniel Southgate Shaler of Harvard says there is no such thing as terra firma. He will have a rocky time proving his assertion.

Great Britain and Germany having taken some "satisfaction" out of Venezuela will now consent to arbitrate. It shows great magnanimity on their part.

The hoof and mouth disease among the cattle of New England will afford the farmers of that section a ready market for their cattle, as Uncle Sam will pay for all killed.

John D. Rockefeller has made a Christmas gift of a million dollars to the University of Chicago. And like Oliver Twist, Chicago university passes up her plate and asks for more.

Premier Balfour is to be commended for his frank statement that there is no such thing as a "pacific blockade." The term belongs in the same category of terms as "muscular Christianity."

The American people would be very glad to have Mr. Richard Olney stand

up and give his views on the present status of affairs in South America, and the rights and duty of the United States in the premises.

With all the powers pouncing upon her, Venezuela's situation is like that of Daniel in the lions' den, which moved the little boy to tears. "Don't cry, my son; Daniel was saved." "I ain't crying for Daniel, but for that poor little lion in the corner who ain't going to get none of him, 'cause there ain't enough of him to go 'round."

The London Daily News thinks that the war on Venezuela is more for the making of a protest against the Monroe doctrine than to coerce the little republic. No doubt the powers engaged in it would be glad to see that doctrine nullified, but they each and all know that it can only be nullified after a great war, and that they do not care to undertake. The American trinity is the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Monroe doctrine.

The Interstate Commerce commission, in its annual report, hits the nail fairly and squarely on the head when it declares that the tendency to combine continues to be the most significant feature of railway development. A further important fact is the statement that "It is not open to question that the competition between railroad carriers which formerly prevailed has been largely suppressed or at least brought to the condition of effective restraint." With the recognition of such facts as these by Congress, there is sure to come such legislation as will cure some of the evils complained of. But it will come slowly, no doubt.

"Senator Beveridge's report in opposition to the admission of New Mexico and Arizona into the Union contains much that would have served as an argument against the admission of half the states already in the Union. In view of the nation's past policy, his proposed condition that a territory, in order to be admitted, should now have a population of 1,500,000 is preposterous," says the Springfield Republican. "The same objections have been urged against all the far western states. But the Republican suggests as a way out of the present dilemma that the two territories be united and admitted as one state, which would not be satisfactory."

## PASSENGERS' RIGHTS.

New York Evening Sun.  
The women of this town have started a Car Passengers' Rights society. This ought to make the traction companies take notice. The embattled ladies are always formidable. The men who suffer to a less degree, and are irritated when they have to sit and watch persons of the other sex standing up, would be glad to see something done and done at once.

## New York World.

It is impossible not to sympathize heartily with the objects of the Car Passengers' Rights society, just formed by New York women. If, by success in reforming the full-fare-but-no-seat abuse of our present local transit system, they will have accomplished a great public good. By common consent a half service has been long accepted as better than no transit, and the general thought has been that in desultory fashion to the question whether a half service might not be obtained by pressure. Under this state of public opinion the companies in control have continued to run their cars in such numbers as to keep them at any time of day just below the comfortable accommodation point. Fewer passengers fewer cars, but just as much crowding all the time. The spirited efforts of the women to wake up the public and shake up the corporations deserve all possible aid and encouragement.

## New York Mail and Express.

When the sentiment of the women of the community pronounces itself clearly and emphatically in behalf of some definite project, the project has to be adopted. There is nothing else to do. The proper course for the ladies who are in this movement is to hit upon some definite goal of achievement, and then to stick to it, and then to demand its adoption. A campaign of pretty lobbying will not accomplish much.

## GENERAL DEWEY.

Portland Oregonian.  
General Dewey in his book on the South African war shows a remarkable blending of patriotism, reverence, bitterness and humility, and withal a commendable spirit of loyalty to the British dynasty in South Africa. The patriotic that is in Dewey's efforts on the field and in the bush during three years of stubbornly contested war in the Transvaal, is of a quality the nobility and persistence of which is unquestioned. His reverence for an overruling power, to which he accords all praise for his many miraculous escapes from death or capture, but which stopped short of granting him victory, is admirable because of its ardor and sincerity.

Boston Herald.  
What's the matter with Gen. Dewey? He has been rated a great commander, but his denunciation of the Boers for their treachery and cowardice, and his statement that but for these England would have found her grave in South Africa, sounds like ingratitude, to call it by no harsher term. Nor are his sneers at Boers and Kitchener particularly graceful, especially considering his tribute to Buller, Gen. Dewey's book on the war has been looked forward to with a good deal of interest as coming from one of the greatest of the Boer strategists, but it looks as if it was marred by ill-natural criticism on both sides. It is interesting to note that Dewey attributes his successes to divine interposition, which would seem to conflict with the somewhat familiar proposition that the Lord is generally on the side of the biggest battalions.

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MATINEE SATURDAY.

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Original New York Production—Original New York Company. Under the Personal Direction of

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PRICES—Box, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.50; box seats, \$2.00.

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Mon, Tues and Wed, and Wed, Matinee, EDWIN MILTON ROYLE, in "FRIENDS."

Seats on sale Friday.

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TONIGHT!

EUGENE COWLES

AMERICA'S GREATEST BASSO.

The Famous "Marcel and Valentine" Scene from the Opera Huguenots will be sung in costume and with scenery and action complete.

SCALE OF PRICES for this special attraction:

Boxes and loges, \$1.50.

Entire lower floor, \$1.00.

Balcony, 75c and 50c.

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Matinee Wednesday at 3 p.m.

"DOWN BY THE SEA."

Seats on sale tomorrow.

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Perfect Cuisine.

Good Service.

Best Market Affords.

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## More New Things FOR CHRISTMAS.

Yesterday's express brought a lot of fancy calendars to help complete this great stock of Christmas goods.

Just looked at a couple of them. One is the Home, Sweet Home calendar, the other is the Old Homestead. There are a half score of other styles—about the cutest lot of things we've seen, 25c to \$2.00. Add to these the Pocket Books, the Card Cases, the Traveling Cases, the Sterling Silver Toilet Articles, the Atomizers, the Cut Glass, the Perfumes, the Safety Razors, the Razors, the Mirrors and you'll find a stock of handsome and useful Christmas gifts that you can't afford to pass by.

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WE HAVE IT.

Burton Coal & Lumber Co.

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The concentrated sweets of all the world are gathered together at our Perfume Counter.

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Just below the clock corner.

## FOR SATURDAY ONLY!

Buttercups, 25c per lb.

## XMAS GIFTS THAT PLEASE

To gladden the heart is the CHRISTMAS CRISIS. Then why not buy a handsome souvenir box of our FINE CANDIES. Nothing daintier, nothing more pleasing.

Once our patron, you'll always be so.

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135 South Main.

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January 1st, 1903, we will put in a complete line of Paper Patterns, and from that date it will be possible for people to purchase Paper Patterns that are really reliable, perfect fitting and easy to cut from.

## Z. C. M. I. Wrapper Sale.

Monday, the 15th, and Week, we will place on Sale our Entire Stock of Wrappers

at a Reduction of 20 per cent, and when you get such a cut

from our already reasonable prices,

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## EXTRAORDINARY

The stock consists of a Fine Assortment of Pleeced and Outing

Pattern Wrappers—A splendid variety of patterns and all sizes, \$4 to \$2.

The reductions will give you:

\$1.00 Wrappers for \$ .80

1.25 Wrappers for 1.00

1.50 Wrappers for 1.20

1.75 Wrappers for 1.40

2.00 Wrappers for 1.60

2.25 Wrappers for 1.80

2.50 Wrappers for 2.00

And so on Right through the line.

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We want to meet you. We want you to see our store and our splendid stock of dependable

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If you have a prescription to be filled it will be accurately compounded by our expert pharmacists. Substitution is positively forbidden. And right at this season of the year we have a beautiful line of Christmas novelties, all new and appropriate.

Music here next Saturday night and also Christmas Eve, by Prof. Niles' Mandolin Orchestra. Come in.

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Prescription Druggists

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The concentrated sweets of all the world are gathered together at our Perfume Counter.

In Bulk